

Wycombe snatch both points in late revival

Sports Mail Special Report

AFTER dropping the club captain, John Bartholomew, in more drastic changes, Wycombe Wanderers were all out today in their Isthmian League game against bottom-of-the-league Clapton, and a goal by the acting skipper, Cliff Trott, gave them a first-half advantage.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; D. Worley; Atkins; Thomas; Fisher; Beck; Hyde; Trott; Bates; Weaver; Tomlin.

Clapton: McAlpine; Wilkinson; A. Bramson; Walsh; Pope; Hendry; Roe; Barber; Lione; Norcott; Gladstone.

Referee: Sgt. B. Parsons (RAF Lyneham).

Attacking strongly in heavy rain at the start Wycombe had a good chance when the Clapton goalkeeper dropped a high centre by Hyde. But Bates's shot was scrambled away by the backs.

Conditions soon made ball control extremely difficult and marksmanship a chancy business.

When Bates beat a couple of men in a sparkling run, Weaver just failed to manoeuvre in the

mud to reach his goalmouth pass.

A speedy if somewhat inaccurate Clapton forward line gave Wycombe's reshuffled defence plenty of action, but finishing was poor and the home backs generally cleared well.

DESERVED IT

It was no more than they deserved after a series of smart saves by McAlpine when Wycombe went ahead after 18 minutes.

Tomlin centred, and when a Clapton back fumbled the clearance TROTT ran in to score.

Clapton hit back at top speed, but shooting was wild, and Brown looked safe enough with the high shots coming frequently, generally from the wings.

At the other end McAlpine did well to save an accurate shot

by Weaver, and then dived full length to stop a hard ground shot by Hyde after good work by the busy Trott.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 1, Clapton 0.

Clapton deservedly equalised 12 minutes after the interval when LIONE headed in from a long pass from Wilkinson.

Play was held up for seven or eight minutes while players and officials repaired the netting of the goal after Bates had been injured as he ran headlong into it.

BATES restored Wycombe's lead in a solo effort and Wycombe, now claimed more of the play and the home forwards rarely looked dangerous.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WAN. 2
CLAPTON 1